

REMARKS

This Amendment serves as the submission accompanying Applicants' Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. By a Notice of Allowance dated February 5, 2004, all of the pending claims stood allowed. By way of this Amendment, claims 9, 18 and 37-41 have been further amended.

Amendments to Claims

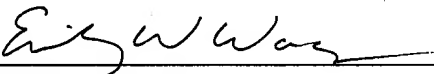
Claims 9, 18 and 37-41 have been amended to recite additional negative provisos, thus narrowing the scope of the pending claims compared to the claims previously allowed by the Examiner. As stated in Applicants' previous Responses, dated March 17, 2003 and October 24, 2003, the use of such negative provisos is permissible and does not constitute the addition of new matter.

Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

In addition, Applicants submit herewith a Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement to draw the Examiner's attention to pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/529,495 (the "Related Application"), which application is assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and the references cited in the Related Application. For the Examiner's reference, the Related Application is a U.S. National Phase Application of International Application No. PCT/AU98/00854, filed 14 October 1998, which claims priority to Australian Patent Application No. PO 9767, filed 14 October 1997, from which the present application also claims priority. Also for the Examiner's reference, Applicants note that the Related Application contains a number of pending claims similar to the claims pending in the present application. The claims pending in the Related Application stand rejected by way of a Final Office Action dated January 30, 2004.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1, 2 and 9-57 is respectfully requested. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same. Furthermore, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:
Third Supplemental IDS

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